Church Life

VOLUME IV. CHICAGO, ILL., JANUARY, 1907. No. 1.

THE SEVENTY-THIRD ANNUAL MEETING.

The seventy-third annual meeting of the First Church was held Wednesday evening, January 16. Dr. de Blois was elected as Moderator and reports were read from every organization of the church. The report of the nominating committee was received and the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

CHURCH OFFICERS.

Deacons for Three Years.

James McElroy. Wm. Wigney.
H. F. Mallory. D. R. Leland.

For Two Years to Fill Vacancy.

F. W. Griffing.

Trustees.

C. H. Marshall. R. B. Twiss.
J. H. Wrenn. C. R. Stouffer.
I. E. Donnelley. M. J. Piercey.
J. Gorton Marsh. H. W. Tomlinson.
Clifford H. Williams.

Church Clerk.

F. S. Allen. W. H. Vallette, Assistant.

Treasurer.

R. B. Twiss.

Auditing Committee.

J. D. Stowell. H. J. Hale.

Baptismal Committee.

M. V. Wagner. Mrs. S. B. Lingle.
W. H. Gale. Mrs. E. L. Russell.
Miss Clara Stowell. Miss Mary Marx.

Church Mission Committee.

Mrs. R. R. Donelley B. C. Lingle.
L. T. Austermell. T. F. Olsen.
W. H. Craig. Mrs. W. J. Wadie.
Cassius Williamson.

Library Committee.

Mrs. W. E. Smith. Miss Lelia Ahrens.
C. H. Stone. Robert Deland.
Mrs Clifford Williams.

SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFICERS.

Superintendent.

M. J. Piercey.
Dr. F. H. Kelley, Assistant.
Mrs. A. E. Thomas, Assistant.

Secretary.

H. H. Solt.

Treasurer.

C. H. Stone.

Librarian.

C. M. Clark.
Geo. Robt. Blakeslee, Assistant

REPORT OF THE PASTOR.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I herewith submit to you my fourth annual report together with the reports of the various organizations under my direction.

It is difficult for me to express in adequate terms the true gratitude which I feel for the innumerable words and deeds of the past year which have indicated to me your spirit of affectionate loyalty. You have fully recognized the fact that the pastor's work is attended at all points by many and perplexing problems, and you have maintained so noble an attitude of love and sympathy on all occasions, that I cannot but express at this time my deep and heartfelt appreciation of your courteous thoughtfulness and loving interest. It is always inspiring and helpful also, for a pastor to know that the sermons and prayer meeting talks, which he seeks to prepare in a spirit of devotion and prayer, and with a desire to be helpful to

those who may listen, have not been without effect; and during the past few months I have had the great gratification of receiving from many of you as individuals more testimonies of grateful appreciation than ever before in the course of my ministry either here amongst you or elsewhere.

I am inspired by these facts to seek more humbly and in a more truly consecrated spirit, to give myself to you; and to labor amongst you more zealously and more faithfully. Our relations as pastor and people have indeed been sweet and inspiring, and I can conceive no greater joy than to minister to your needs in whatever way there may be opportunity.

OUR MEMORIAL RECORD.

The number of those who have passed from our midst into the heavenly land is nearly twice as great this year as last, and amongst those whose presence we look for in vain, were several who had reached an advanced age. Miss Isabel Harvey, Deacon William Garnett, Mrs. J. E. Marsh, Mr. George J. Pope, Deacon R. S. Parker and Mrs. J. D. Logan had with a single exception reached the age of four score years, and Miss Harvey and Deacon Garnett were over ninety years of age at the time of their death. They were all intensely loyal to the cause of Jesus Christ. They bore a pure and lofty Christian character. Our church is greatly impoverished by their going.

Mr. H. F. Googins left us suddenly in the midst of the vigor of his manhood. He was always planning and working for the welfare of the church that he loved. He was "instant in season, and out of season, always abounding in the work of the Lord."

Raymond Chapel work as well as the church has been bereft in the calling away of Mrs. Austermell, who was intimately identified with all its interests from the very inception of the Mission, and Louis Reeder, the founder and teacher of the Reeder Class. Their services for the Master were noteworthy and most productive in spiritual results.

Mrs. S. C. Knight was deeply beloved and until her last illness prevented her from active participation in the work of the church, had been foremost in noble and self-denying efforts in behalf of the kingdom of Christ.

Miss Carrie Moody was one of the most faithful of our younger members while resident in our city. Mrs. W. C. Miller was a true-hearted disciple of Jesus and has been for some time identified with the work and interests of our church.

This obituary list is almost appalling as we gather together these various names and consider the saintly lives of these dear friends who have gone from our midst. How important it is that those of us who remain should pray for a more intense devotion to the cause of truth and to the church for which Christ shed His precious blood.

ORGANIZATIONS.

The reports of the different societies indicate in detail the character of the work that has been performed during the past year. Careful examination of these reports will reveal the fact that the year has been one of real progress and power. The multiform activities of the Ladies' Benevolent Society and the large number in attendance at the bi-monthly meetings assure us that under the careful leadership of Mrs. McCullough, there has been no slightest diminution of interest or faithfulness. The Mission Circle has continued its effective and inspiring ministrations. The last meeting held by the circle was characterized by peculiar earnestness and enthusiasm and all the meetings of the year have been gracious and uplifting. The three young ladies' organizations have also had a prosperous year. The Amoret Henson Guild under the inspiring leadership of Miss Kellow and more recently of Miss Blanche Harvey continues to be a most important and vital instrumentality for good, in the life of the church.

It is seldom that all the organizations of a church without a single exception can give at the close of a year, such a uniformly encouraging report.

THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR SOCIETIES.

We now have two Christian Endeavor organizations meeting each week. One society holds its weekly meetings as before on Friday evenings and the other meets on Sundays just before the beginning of the regular evening service. The attendance at the Sunday evening organization has considerably increased, while that on Friday evening has possibly diminished slightly during the year. It seems wise to have a meeting of the young people at some time during the week, but some find it inconvenient to be present on Friday or indeed any other evening except Sunday. The objection often made to the Endeavor meeting on Sunday evening, that it interferes with the attendance of the young people at the regular preaching service does not seem to hold true in the case of our church, as the young peple come from their Endeavor meeting to the church service. On the whole it seems a judicious plan to have the two organizations; although a somewhat more vigorous effort should be made on behalf of the Friday evening meeting.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

The tidings that Superintendent Whitmore has declined a renomination to the very important office which he has filled during the past three years, will be received with keen regret by our members. Mr. Whitmore has given himself with absolute devotion to the work and needs of the Sunday school. He has spared neither time nor energy in its behalf. For several years previous to his election to the general superintendency Deacon Whitmore succeeded in bringing the Primary department, which was then under his charge, to a high degree of strength and efficiency. During his more recent term of service as general superintendent, the Intermediate and Adult departments have gained substantially both in spirit and enthusiasm. Although we deeply regret that the state of his health does not allow him to continue the arduous and exacting duties of superintendent, we sincerely hope

that he may soon find it possible to undertake again some form of active service in connection with some department of our work.

The annual entertainment given by the school a few weeks since was noteworthy, not only for the peculiar excellence of the program, and its careful arrangement, but as well for the generous spirit which pervaded it from beginning to end The introduction of this unselfish purpose into the annual festivities of the school has a distinctly educative influence upon the minds and hearts of the pupils and it is to be hoped it may continue year by year.

At present the religious interest seems to be deeper than it has been for a long while. The pastor and teachers have met together on several recent occasions for conference and prayer. The results seem to be manifesting themselves in a deepened spiritual thoughfulness on the part of the scholars in many of the classes. Let us all hope and pray that the coming year may be full of revival and blessing in connection with our school.

The single weak place of the Sunday school work is the primary department. This is not due to the fault of any officer or teacher. Mrs Lumley has been an ideal superintendent and by her gentleness of spirit and fine ability has endeared herself to all the children. The fault lies outside of the school. It seems very difficult to increase the attendance. There should be five times as many pupils in our Primary department as there are. The situation here is a very grave and critical one. In fact it is the most serious question at present in conection with our church and its organizations. Means must be taken to meet the crisis and emergency here. The full time of one visitor is all too little for the exceedingly important work in connection with this branch of our church administration.

THE MEN'S LEAGUE.

The largest measure of success has attended the efforts of the Men's League. The year 1906 will be long remembered for the character of the work performed by the leaders and members of this body. The re-organization of the society a year ago last September has long since proved its wisdom. Instead of confining its meetings to the monthly social, in which the religious interest had no part, and having a Bible class as a mere addendum which dragged its slow life along, under varying auspices, and with varying degrees of success, the men of the league decided to put the religious work in the foreground and make the social interest secondary. As a result they have succeeded in stimulating the social interest more fully than ever before while energizing and stimulating the more important religious interest. The president of the league presides at the Sunday meetings, while the Bible study and discussion are under the leadership of the pastor. Although somewhat embarassed by the fact that the period allowed for Bible study is not as long as the members would wish to have it, the attendance has been large and the interest deep from the beginning. The plan has now been in operation for fifteen months and the enthusiasm is greater today than at any previous time.

Mr. Marshall, the president of last year, and Mr. Trude, who was elected to the presidency in September, are, above all others, responsible for the present success of the League, but they have been heartily assisted by a band of most faithful and energetic workers.

The organization of an Octette has proved to be a great attraction and we are favored with music from its members on nearly every Sunday.

The presence of two such vigorous Bible classes as those of the young men under the able direction of Mr. Pienkowsky and Mr. Merrifield, and the League class under the presidency of Mr. Trude, is a noteworthy feature of our work at present. It is also noticeable that the men in attendance at our Sunday evening service is very large. At the morning preaching service the number of men in attendance is much less than that of women, as is the case in all churches, but in the evening service the reverse of this is usually true. On several occasions recently it was noticed that the number of men exceeded the number of women in attendance at this Sunday evening service. This may be one of the results of the newly awakened interest in the work of the Men's League. It is certainly a very exceptional condition in the history of our present day churches.

With great generosity of motive the Ladies' Benevolent Society decided to use a large part of the proceeds of the recent Bazaar in assisting the Men's League to cancel the mortgage-indebtedness on the lot south of the church. It is needless to say that the members of the League have been greatly encouraged by this act of unselfish co-operation, they are, therefore, planning to carry forward a movement of the complete annihilation of the debt, which has rested upon this property for so long a time. In this service they must have the co-operation of the members of the church and of all friends of the church. It is not a small matter to raise a debt of $6,000. With the aid of the ladies this amount has been reduced to $4,800. It will require a most active and virile campaign to secure this amount. But as our old church has triumphed in the past, so we believe she will succeed through the energy and devotion of this strong organization of men in her present undertaking.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS.

The experience of Mr. Kennan and Mr. Mesner with the reorganized Boys' Club seems to show that it is unwise for the present to carry forward the work of this society.

The question narrows itself to two facts. In the first place the boys whom we desire to reach are not interested in quiet parlor games and such other dignified recreations as are possible within the walls of our church. In the second place we have at present no provision for their needs, through any other instrumentalities. There are multitudes of boys on our streets whom we could reach and help and into whose life we could contribute beneficially in a dozen different ways if we had a building at our command to which we could invite them. It is a most narrow and

un-Christ-like spirit which sees any manner of harm in a proper provision for the needs of these young boys. May the interests of these hosts of youth who are utterly outside of helpful and religious influences in the home rest with so great a burden upon our hearts that we shall dedicate ourselves and our means to the proper provision for their needs.

The success of the Junior Congregation calls for our praise. To be sure the boys of whom I have just been speaking cannot in their present state by any power of persuasion be induced to engage in such a service as that of Sunday afternoon, but we are able to reach a quieter and better trained class of boys and girls.

RAYMOND CHAPEL.

The report of Assistant Pastor Embree will set before you the conditions on our Raymond field. We have now a suitable and well-situated building, which, together with the lot, is owned by our church, and on which there rests no shadow of debt. The long period of interruption of regular work, on account of the change of location and the task of construction, made the renewal of activities somewhat difficult, but this difficulty has been overcome, and the future is bright with hope. Mr. Embree has been working earnestly and well, preaching able sermons, and seeking in many ways to promote the best interests of this important branch of our church. He has been grandly assisted by his wife, as well as by volunteer laborers from the home church and on the field.

THE PASTOR'S ASSISTANTS.

Certainly no pastor has had more valued or efficient co-laborers than those who have shared with me the toils and joys of service in the sphere of our church's ministry during the past year.

Rev. R. R. Kennan came as Assistant to the Pastor in March. Accustomed as he has been to the full administration of a vigorous and important church, Mr. Kennan brought to his work here a wealth of rare experience. Though in the nature of the case his duties have been very diverse, the calls for his helpful counsel and service coming from so many quarters and making impossible the concentration of his gifts and efforts in any single department, he has proved himself easily master of every task to which he has set his hand. Quietly and with intelligent force, without conceit of his own powers or flattery of others, he has wrought everywhere strongly and enduringly.

Miss Van Fleet has been active in support of the Sunday School, the Benevolent Society, the Guild, the Girls' Fidelity, the Industrial School at Raymond and the church in general. To the entire limit of her time and strength she has employed herself in beautiful and self sacrificing devotions.

On the fifteenth of January Miss M. E. Young will complete her work as secretary to the Pastor and Church. With the exception of a few hours each week, spent in the writing of the report of the pastor's Sunday sermons, her time has been spent in a multitude of tasks in connection with the details of our work. For a good part of the year two days a week were given to the service of the Sunday school; the rest of the time has been devoted to letter-writing, visitation, the preparation and mailing of necessary notices and circulars for the church and its different organizations, the keeping and correcting of the card-catalogues, and a multitude of minor duties, which in the past have eaten up a great deal of the pastor's time and hindered him in the prosecution of the larger work of his ministry. The fact that Miss Young has been at work eight hours in a day for six days in the week for eight or nine months of the past year, will indicate the extent of her activity. She has performed with unremitting zeal and careful accuracy all the work committed to her hands, and is worthy of the highest commendation for her noble faithfulness.

THE PASTORAL OFFICE.

With the exception of the vacation period I have been in my place in the pulpit every single Sunday during the year, and, with the exception of Children's day, when I was absent at the morning service, I have been present in the pulpit at every Sunday service, both morning and evening. I was absent from the League class also on one occasion only. It may, of course, be necessary now and then for the pastor to be absent, but my desire and ideal is to serve without failure this most important pulpit function.

I have attended 565 meetings, an increase of 55 over the year previous. If the vacation season be excepted, the average number of meetings I have attended each week has been a little more than 13 or about two each day. In most of these meetings I have taken some part.

My visitation work has been largely amongst those who are not connected with the church, the calls and demands from the people of the community having been more numerous than in any previous year. Many of them have been interesting, some of them even tragic in their character.

It is my intention to engage in a campaign of visitation at as early a date as possible, amongst the members of the church. This I feel to be very important and it is only on account of the stern pressure of other duties that I have allowed it to give place to more immediate and insistent demands.

The work of general oversight of the organizations of the church involves much more time than would be supposed by the on-looker. Conferences with committees of all kinds make a never-ending but always welcome and interesting draft on my time, thought and energy.

REVIVAL SERVICES.

By study of the records of the church in the past I find that it was customary to employ an evangelist every winter, almost without exception. Most of the converts who united with the church came through the medium of these evangelistic services. During the past four

years we have had no such services, the work of the Welsh evangelists last spring being entirely for the stimulation of the spiritual life of church members.

It would seem well for us to engage in distinctively revivalistic services at some time during the coming winter, under the leadership of some strong evangelist. Though the additions to our church during the year by baptism have not been great in numbers, our spiritual life has been healthy and vigorous.

NEW PLANS.

Splendid and effective work has been done by Mr. W. E. Smith and others associated with him, in the effort to clear away the mortgage indebtedness on the lot south of the church and so prepare the way for the erection and equipment of a building for men and boys. In my first annual report I called attention to the need for such a building. Soon after that time a crisis came in our Raymond work and it was necessary for us to concentrate our forces, our plans and our gifts in that cherished branch of our church's activity.

Now we are free to undertake the great and important task of which we have been thinking and dreaming for so long a time. I hope that all of us will be ready to co-operate heartily in the realization of the truly magnificent opportunity that lies before us. It is not a time for idle words but for generous gifts and for deeds of self sacrifice and Christlike devotion.

Let us make this year notable by laying the foundations of a work which shall continue and enlarge and develop through the years of the future; a work which shall minister in the spirit of Christ to the men and boys, the women and girls, of this community; a work which shall re-consecrate and hallow the worship and service of this beloved and honored church; a work which shall extend mightily the power and influence of the Master in the midst of our great and needy and sinful city.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

AUSTEN KENNEDY DE BLOIS.

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT PASTOR.

Chicago, Ill., Jan. 5, 1907.

To the First Baptist Church of Chicago:—

Dear Brothers and Sisters:—It is but nine months and a half since I began my labors among you as Assistant to the Pastor, yet in that time the church and its members have come to mean much to me for the Christian fellowship found in your midst. In the nature of the case and because of the nature of my work, I can give a report of my work only in a most general and superficial way. The report for the nine months from April 1 to December 31, in bare figures, is as follows: Calls made, 463; meetings attended, 289; prayer meetings led, including three for the C. E., 22; Sunday School lessons taught from platform in Primary, 16; Sermons preached to Juniors, 10; Talks to Sunday school, 4; Sermons at Raymond, in open air, and in the church, 12.

The Home Department of the Sunday school was placed in my charge immediately on my arrival on the field and has required a large amount of thought, attention and care. Circular letters have been written to every member on the list; notices of events of importance to our Sunday school have been sent to the members two or three times, and considerable correspondence has been necessary in keeping in touch with the members and in getting reports from them.

During the summer, in the absence of the pastor, the leading of the prayer meetings and the charge of the other church services devolved upon me; and in the absence of the Primary Sunday school superintendent, I was called in to fill that place for several Sundays.

The reorganization of the Boys' Club and the Junior Society called for a large amount of my time and thought during the fall.

All of the time there has been visitation in behalf of the Home department, the church and the pastor, a work which all church workers know is never fully completed, and to which always more time should be given.

It will be seen by the above hints as to my work that it has been largely, too largely perhaps, a kind of filling-in process. I have had few clearly defined duties, except to make myself useful in filling in wherever it seemed most necessary. Now it was teaching a class in Sunday school: singing in the Octette, or duet or quartette; now it was trying to keep the boys straight Saturday night at the Club; now it was office work and again it has been street preaching. If it be true that "variety is the spice of life," it must be that my life has been seasoned this year with "allspice." A few cases of need have enlisted my interest, sickness and deaths have made claims on my sympathy and time, while there has always been the extras of committee meetings or detail work to occupy spare moments.

I counted it one of the brightest days of my life when I was permitted to lead one young man to put his trust in Christ, who a month later went to meet his Savior. This experience, with others of a similar nature, leads me to hope that my service in your midst has not been entirely without even visible results. And as to the rest, I can only leave the "labor" with Him who has promised that it "shall not be in vain." Respectfully submitted,

R. R. KENNAN.

REPORT OF THE CHURCH AND S. S. VISITOR.

To the First Baptist Church:—

The year 1906 has been a busy year and a happy year—busier than the preceding year because each year of experience in the work and acquaintance with the people brings added opportunities for work, but happier it surely could not be, for each year has been filled with so many tokens of loving sympathy and co-operation in all the work, that I have been constrained many a time to "give thanks to the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

I am sure that much that ought to have been done remains yet to be accomplished, but I

have tried faithfully, asking wisdom of Him who "giveth liberally and upbraideth not" to use my time and strength in a way to bring the best possible returns, judging carefully between that which seemed necessary and that which seemed more necessary. My daily prayer has been that God would give me much strength and that He would keep me so near to Himself that I might be His messenger in helping some who needed the gentle ministration of the Lord's handmaiden. A rest of several days in the spring and the vacation month of August helped to supply needed physical strength, and a delightful trip to the Baptist Anniversaries at Dayton was a help and a blessing during all the year's work.

About half of the calls made during the year have been in behalf of the Sunday school directly, although it is difficult to draw a line between church calls and Sunday school calls, as every call upon a child in behalf of the Sunday school is also a call upon the mother in behalf of the church services. The census has given me a great deal of useful work to do, but the larger part of information thus secured is still before me, to be followed up in the weeks that come.

At Thanksgiving time about 25 dinners were packed and sent out, and at Christmas one dinner and over a hundred toys and dolls found their way into homes where Santa was unable to leave the accompaniment of a happy Christmas, so necessary to the children.

There has seemed to be much more poverty and suffering this year than last—or more has come to our attention and I have been borne down often by the need I have seen, knowing the small resources at my command to supply the need, and particularly by the moral poverty, which is so often the cause of material need.

During 1906 there has passed through my hands for benevolent causes the sum of $217.70. This amount was granted from the various benevolent funds of our church and given me by individuals to supply special cases of need. I have very much appreciated the privilege that has been mine in being allowed to place these sums where they were needed and to distribute a large number of garments and articles of bedding for the Benevolent Society.

The Guild Bible class suffered a division during the early part of the year, a part of the class forming a Teacher Training class composed of eighteen young ladies for a course of general Bible study preparatory to serving as teachers in our school; the remainder continuing the study of the Blakeslee course with Miss Leidlaw. During the summer the classes again united and took up the study of the International Sunday school lessons one week in advance of the school, in order that members of the class might be ready to act as supply teachers. When the Teacher Training class was again organized Mrs. A. O. Ware became its leader and the Guild class goes on, as at the beginning of the year, with an enrollment of 19 members.

During the fall months it was my privilege to give a course of lessons in the Baptist Missionary Training school. The Junior congregation, of which Mr. Kennan has been the leader, has also looked to me for some help.

During a large part of the year my Saturday mornings were given to helping in the Industrial school at Raymond Chapel. I have also attended a number of the meetings of the Raymond Chapel Ladies' Aid, assisting in completing the organization of the ladies there. I have been glad of this opportunity because it has given me some acquaintance with the Raymond people and the Raymond work, which I have found helpful. Otherwise, I have not found time to do anything in the Raymond neighborhood, much as I am interested in this work, with the exception of a few calls on families whose children are upon our Sunday school roll and a small amount of benevolent work.

I have made no attempt to keep a record of calls which I have received at my home during the small parts of the day when I am at home, but these have constantly increased and have amounted to a large number during the year, most of them as important to the work as the calls I have made.

In giving a statistical report I realize that such a report must be very imperfect because it makes no record of many calls where I have not been able to gain entrance or have hunted for a person not to be found and of many things which cannot be mentioned in a report. But I submit the same as an indication that your missionary has been kept busy:

Calls made	1,512
Letters written	149
Postals written	676
Services attended	411
Committee meetings attended	40
Teachers' Meetings attended	7
Bible lessons given	100
Garments and comforters given away	643

In closing the report of 1906, I feel overwhelmed with the opportunities which have been missed during the year because of the limited time and strength of one visitor in so large a church. I am moved to express the wish that I might have been allowed to spend all my time in building up the Sunday school, where there is so much need for visitation work. But the wish is also strong that I might have given the whole year to looking after the strangers, the sick and the poor of our large congregation, or that I might have gone out in the region of our Raymond Chapel to work for the services and Industrial school with all my strength. "Pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest that He will send more workers into the vineyard," and that the Lord's people in our dear church may be moved to give so generously that "enlargement" and not "retrenchment" may be on our banners for 1907. Yours in His service,

MARGARET VAN FLEET.

REPORT OF ASSISTANT PASTOR EMBREE.

Dear Pastor:—

In presenting my third and last report let me express my heartfelt gratitude for the many kindnesses shown to Mrs. Embree and myself. My esteem for the First church and its pastor has grown into love and evermore will I have a deep interest in your mutual success in promoting the kingdom of God in this section of Chicago.

CHURCH LIFE.

As Editor of Church Life I have been in touch with nearly all the organizations of the church and have tried to help each department of work. I am convinced that all interests can more and more profit by using the columns of the church magazine. The work of the whole church should be minutely reflected each month in Church Life. We have, during the year, enlarged the paper to thirty-two pages and better still have secured the second class rate which enables us to mail a much larger number of copies. The value of Church Life is evidenced by the many letters received from far and wide.

THE CALENDAR.

For fifty-two weeks during the past year I have handled the weekly order of service for the home church and Raymond. No church in existence has a better order of worship.

RAYMOND CHAPEL WORK.

We have been in the new chapel one year, but until the Ladies' parlor was completed we had no more room than in the old building. It has been a great disappointment to me not to have the room on the lower floor finished; but it will be a compensating joy to have the main room and vestibule decorated so as to make the whole interior attractive instead of forbidding.

ORGANIZATIONS AT THE CHAPEL.

The Sunday school has held its own during the year but now bids fair to boom. Mr. Kelley has taken the superintendency and brings a spirit of enthusiasm which is sure to build up the school. Mr. King most valiantly took up the work laid down by our beloved friend and co-worker, Louis Reeder, and has held the young men together against great difficulty.

The Junior C. E. has been organized during the year and is in a prosperous condition. The junior chorus recently sang at the evening service.

The C. E. Society during the year has had a large attendance during the whole year and has now been thoroughly re-organized with Mr. Simmons as President.

The Girls' Guild has been very successful work in holding twenty-five or thirty girls each Monday night. [illegible] would have been Evenings of which the Rev. and have been kept from the degenerating influence of the public dance in the park at our very door. The Guild has given the girls valuable training intellectually and industrially and spiritually.

The prayer meeting has had a very good attendance throughout the year and it was especially large during the summer months, often numbering over sixty. The spiritual life of our whole work came to a climax during the summer when a real refreshing was experienced in the series of midsummer revival meetings. Several were baptized as a result.

The additions to the church have been twelve, which is very instructive when you read in the clerk's report on another page that the net gain of the whole church was less than the number received from Raymond.

A Bible class has been started during the fall meeting each Friday evening; it numbers about twenty members all told.

We have just started a Bible study and teacher training class in connection with the Cook County Sunday School Association with an expert teacher. Other churches are invited to co-operate and great blessing is sure to result. Some of the home school teachers are taking advantage of this helpful class. A new organization has been started recently called "The Hustlers" made up of the boys in Mr. Orth's class. They will meet on Sunday at 3 p. m. and also on Thursday evenings.

The evening services have been for the most part well attended and the influence of the Chapel is stronger in the community than ever. Next month union revival meetings will be held at the Chapel including all the protestant churches of the community.

If Raymond Chapel is to grow it must have more support from the home church in the working force, in the Sunday school, in the prayer meeting and in every other organization.

The Ladies' Aid have a noble record for the year. A large amount of money has been raised besides the money given for the new parlor. Mrs. Wadie, the new president, has proved to be the right person in the right place.

RAYMOND CHAPEL.

Year 1906.

Total Receipts	$1036 12
Total Disbursements	1094 11
Deficit	$ 61 59
Account for completion of Women's Room in Basement	
Received from Women's Society at Raymond Chapel	$100 00
Receipts from subscriptions	75 00
	$175 00
Total	$175 00
Paid Contractor	B. C. Lincoln, Treas.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, CHICAGO, TREASURER'S REPORT, A. D. 1906.

Receipts and Disbursements.

Cash on hand January 1, 1906		$ 43.96
Cash from Basket Collections	$1,142.21	
Cash from Weekly Offerings	3,128.48	
Cash from Rents of Pews and Sittings	4,551.92	
Cash from Contributions to Expense Fund	2,940.26	11,762.87
Cash Acct. Raymond Chapel Bldg Fund		768.38
Cash Acct. Sunday School—Annual Collection		436.94
Cash Acct. Mtg. Fund—deposited in Ill. T. & S. Bank		173.24
Cash Acct The Susan J. Pope Fund—dep. in Merchants' L. & T. Co. Bank		500.00
Cash Acct Expenses of Evangelistic meetings		305.27
Cash Drawn from Ill. T. & S. Bk. acct. Drake Fund		97.67

BENEVOLENCES.

Cash for Am. Baptist Missionary Union	445.95	
Cash for Am. Baptist Home Mission Society	312.43	
Cash for Am. Baptist Publication Society	51.15	
Cash for Baptist City Mission Society	54.95	
Cash for Central Baptist Orphanage	16.68	
Cash for N. W. Baptist Education Society	10.00	
Cash for State Missions	50.00	
Cash for Students' Volunteer Mis. Conference	9.32	
Cash for Park Av. Baptist Church—Hot Springs, Ark.	16.67	
Cash for So. Park Av. M. E. Church—½ Thanksgiving Offering	11.68	
Cash for Ladies' Missionary Box	6.90	
Cash for the Regions Beyond Mis. Union	26.88	
Cash for Grande-Ligne Mission	60.06	
Cash for Christian Temperance Crusade	6.71	
Cash for Anti-Saloon League of Illinois	229.70	
Cash for Famine Sufferers in Northern Japan	12.50	
Cash for California Relief Fund	332.60	
		1,654.18
		$15,742.49
Paid acct. Pastor's Salary	4,166.67	
Paid for Pulpit Supplies	220.00	
Paid Assistant to Pastor—10½ months	475.00	
Paid Church Missionary and S. S. Visitor	600.00	
Paid Pastor's Secretary—10½ months	475.00	
Paid Janitor	600.00	
Paid Expenses of Choir	2,127.24	
Paid Treasurer	500.00	
Paid Lighting and Heating Church	740.06	
Paid Repairs	335.20	
Paid Printing, Stationery and Stamps	182.05	
Paid Sundry small bills	124.03	
		$10,545.25
Paid Interest		268.33
Paid Taxes and Assessments		479.56
Paid Insurance		375.00
Paid Deposited in Ill. T. & S. Bk. acct. Mtg. Fund		173.24
Paid Acct. Raymond Chapel Bldg. Fund		762.24
Paid to Treasurer of Sunday School		436.94
Paid Expenses of Evangelistic Meetings		306.75

BENEVOLENCES.

Paid Am. Baptist Missionary Union	$ 445.95	
Paid Am. Baptist Home Mission Society	312.43	
Paid Am. Baptist Publication Society	51.15	
Paid Am. Baptist City Mission Society	54.95	
Paid Baptist Central Baptist Orphanage	16.68	
Paid N. W. Baptist Education Society	10.00	
Paid State Missions	50.00	
Paid Students' Volunteer Mis. Conference	9.32	
Paid Park Av. Baptist Church—Hot Springs, Ark.	16.67	
Paid So. Park Av. M. E. Church ½ Thanksgiving Offering	11.68	
Paid Ladies' Missionary Box	6.90	
Paid the Regions Beyond Missionary Union	26.88	
Paid Grande-Ligne Mission	60.06	
Paid Christian Temperance Crusade	6.71	
Paid Anti-Saloon League of Illinois	229.70	
Paid Famine Sufferers in Northern Japan	12.50	
Paid California Relief Fund	332.60	
Paid out on account of the Drake Fund	97.67	
		1,751.85
		$15,099.16
Balance in Bank	$ 500.00	
To Credit of The Susan J. Pope Fund	41.73	643.33
To credit of Raymond Chapel Bldg. Fund	101.60	
To credit of General Expense Acct		$15.742.49

FINANCIAL STATEMENT—ASSETS.

Cash in Bank—		
To credit General Expense Fund	$ 101.60	
To credit The Susan J. Pope Fund	500.00	
To credit Raymond Chapel Bldg. Fund	41.73	
Unpaid Pew Rents—good	175.00	
Unpaid Subscriptions and Pledges—good	225.00	
Unpaid Weekly Offerings	50.00	
Cash on deposit to credit of Drake Fund	478.28	
Cash on deposit to credit of Mortgage Fund	173.24	
Accrued interest on two last above named items	47.77	
Remaining ½ of Highland Park lot	500.00	
Fifty feet of ground adjoining church cost	6,100.00	
		$8,392.62

LIABILITIES.

Amount owing on first mortgage	$3,000.00	
Amount owing on second mortgage	2,425.00	
Amount owing acct. Salary	833.33	
Amount Due on Drake Fund	858.68	
Amount Due the Susan J. Pope Fund	500.00	
Amount Due from the Mortgage Fund	173.24	
Amount Due the Raymond Chapel Bldg. Fund	41.73	
Amount owing on Loan	500.00	8,331.98
Surplus		60.64

INSURANCE.

On Church Edifice	$50,000.00
On furniture and fixtures	10,000.00
On Organ	5,000.00

The following named sums, collected by the respective organizations named, are not shown on the treasurer's books, to-wit:

Ladies' Benevolent Society	$ 815.45	
Women's Mission Circle	754.75	
Young Women's Missionary Circle	71.40	
Amoret Henson Guild	102.38	
Sunday School (less amt. rec'd from Church)	1,053.69	
Society of Christian Endeavor	68.65	
Men's League	221.43	
Raymond Chapel	1,036.12	
		$4,123.87

RICHARD B. TWISS, Treasurer.

Chicago, December 31, 1906.

REPORT OF THE CHURCH CLERK.

To the First Baptist Church.

Dear Brethren:—During the year 1906 the changes in the church membership have been as follows:

Additions.

By Baptism	29
By Letter	30
By Experience	7
By Restoration	1
	67

Diminutions.

By Letter	38
By Death	12
By Dropping	5
By Exclusion	1
	56
Net Gain	11

Making a total enrollment of 1,007, according to our files.

In addition to the above, two were received for baptism, one a child whose parents finally prevented her coming into the church and the other, a man, who died before he had been baptized.

We have suffered more losses than usual by death during the year and much more in fact than the numbers indicate. Some of our oldest and some of our most honored members have passed into the next world. The names of those gone are as follows:

Mrs. W. C. Miller.
Miss Isabel Harvey.
Miss L. F. Austermel.
Mrs. J. D. Logan.
Miss Carrie Moody.
Deacon Wm. Garnett.
Mrs. J. E. Marsh,
H. F. Googins,
Mrs. S. C. Knight.
Louis Reeder.
Geo. G. Pope.
Deacon R. S. Parker.

It should be said that the membership list has not been revised for several years and contains the names of many of whom we have not heard for a long time.

Respectfully submitted,
J. G. MARSH, Clerk.

REPORT OF TREASURER OF FELLOWSHIP FUND FOR THE YEAR 1906.

Balance on hand January 1, 1906	$ 61.56
Collections during the year	165.00
Total	$226.56

Disbursements.

To sundry individuals	$57.70
To the Ministers' Home, Fenton, Michigan	44.15
Total disbursements	$101.85
Leaving balance on hand Jan. 1, 1907.	$124.71

The demands on the fund during the year have been less than usual and though no case that has come to the notice of the deacons has been neglected the balance on hand is larger than usual.

The amount contributed to the Aged Ministers' Home at Fenton, Mich., was just one half of the amount in the treasury on August 1.

Respectfully submitted, E. D. NEAL, Treas.

REPORT OF DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

The District Committee organization has during a large part of the year done noble work. With the exception of the summer months and the month of December when the bazaar absorbed the time and thought of the ladies, the committee has met on the first Friday of each month. I am not able to give an accurate report of the number of visits made by the ladies of this large committee as in many cases they have not been reported, but many grateful words of appreciation have come to the ears of the pastor and his assistants concerning these calls upon the strangers of our congregation and our neighborhood.

MARGARET VAN FLEET, Secretary.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT.

Rev. Austen K. DeBlois, Ph. D.,

Dear Pastor:—In submitting this, my third and last annual report as superintendent of the Sunday school, I deem it unnecessary to go as fully into some matters as I have heretofore, or hamper my successor with many suggestions; but I feel it my duty to the members of the church to give a brief statement of what has been accomplished in the past three years, and the actual condition of the school as it stands today.

The difficulties we had to meet in January, 1904, when I left the Primary department to take charge as General Superintendent, will be found in my annual report of January 11, 1905. They are also referred to in our pastor's report of the same date, and published in "Church Life" in its January issue of that year.

ENROLLMENT AND ATTENDANCE.

From the Secretary's report we find there has again been an increase the past year of 16 in enrollment and 13 in average attendance in the Intermediate Department, while the Primary Department again shows a decrease of 13 in average attendance. The past two years show an increase in average attendance in the Intermediate of 36.3 and a decrease in the Primary of 19.8.

During the past year we have had an unusual number of very rainy Sundays, when the attendance was exceedingly small. This made the average attendance much less than it would have been under ordinary weather conditions of previous years. Many people judge a Sunday school by the attendance—while a large school is very desirable, it is to my mind, far from being the most important.

FINANCIAL.

From the report of Brother Stone, Treasurer, to which you are referred for details, we find the receipts of the past year, including balance on hand, January 1, 1906, have been $1,490.

63, and its disbursements, $1,097.31, leaving a balance on hand of $393.32, of which amount $28.33 is to the credit of the Birthday Fund, and $364.99 to that of the General Fund. From this amount is to be paid for Benevolences, the sum of $200.00, leaving a balance of $164.99. There is to be added to this the sum of $30.00, balance from teacher's class fund, of two years ago, making $194.99 with which to commence the new year.

In addition to above, there is a balance of $8.55 in the hands of Brother Tomlinson, Treasurer of "Special Fund," of Primary Department, and in the hands of Brother Ira Humphrey, Treasurer of "Sacrifice Fund" of Primary Department, the sum of $29.91. The "Fisher Mission Band" has on hand the sum of $48.85.

We feel deeply indebted to the many who so generously responded to our appeal the first of last year, and we are especially indebted to a few personal friends who voluntarily gave money for special purposes.

BIBLE CLASSES.

One of the most encouraging features in the school is the increased attendance and interest manifested by the members of our Bible classes. I have not the data before me to give the increased attendance, but they have all had a steady and healthy growth.

The work that Deacon Pienkowsky, Mr. Merrifield, and the scholars of the Lorimer class have been doing is beginning to tell, and it is now a strong enthusiastic class of young men from 16 to 20 years of age.

All the classes, including the Mens League, are doing finely. We mention the Lorimer class particularly, for the reason that its condition a year ago was such as to require aggressive work to build it up.

When we look into the faces of the members of these different classes of young men and young women, we must take on new courage and feel the school is prospering and the cause of the Master is being advanced.

LIBRARY.

There has been a decided improvement in its management under Brother Clarke and his faithful assistant, Deacon Raymond. We trust they will continue to study and plan how the scholars can derive the greatest benefit by the use of their department.

HOME DEPARTMENT.

From the report of Brother Kennan, Superintendent of this Department, we find there are now 132 members, as compared with 125 last year; and the receipts have been $65.12 as compared with $144.30 last year, and expenses $43.43, as against $51.73 a year ago—for details we refer you to his report.

We strongly urge all who are available as members to take advantage of the great privileges which this Department offers.

We are not only greatly indebted to Brother Kennan for his faithfulness as Superintendent of this Department, but also for the invaluable service he has rendered the school in many, many ways.

DECISION DAY.

We deeply regret that circumstances prevented the observance of this a year ago, as has been our custom, for doubtless it would have increased the number of baptisms; but the pastor and teachers are, and have been for some weeks, preparing for it. Let us hope and pray that many of our boys and girls will come out on the Lord's side. In the past three years we have had from the Sunday school 41 baptisms, an average of 14 each year.

FISHER MISSION BAND.

Since its organization, in the Primary Department, about five years ago, the little ones have saved of their pennies and given to mission work and benevolences over $300.

The past two years they have not given as much, nor do they seem as much interested as formerly. This may be only natural, unless the enthusiasm is kept up by the Superintendent and teachers of the Department.

Some six weeks ago we invited all in the Intermediate Department who were members of the Band when in the Primary, to continue giving and quite a few are doing so.

None of us can tell what good these pennies have done, but it is not only that, but the benefit to the boy and girl who acquires the habit of giving.

We strongly urge Superintendent and teachers of both departments to do all possible to revive and continue the interest in this work.

SPECIAL DAY.

The special days during the year have been observed with appropriate exercises as usual. Time will not permit of referring to each but we cannot refrain from speaking of the Christmas entertainment held in the church on Thursday evening, December 27. It was one of the most appropriate, novel and beautiful we have ever had. A new feature was added—that of giving—and the novel manner in which this was done, made it very interesting and entertaining.

The audience was very large, the order good, and contributions generous, and enabled our school to send about $60 to help pay off the mortgage of the Baptist Orphanage.

Much credit is due Mrs. Ware, Mrs. Lumley and Mrs. Hume, for originating and working out the plan, and to all who so ably assisted in its execution, making it a grand success. We hope to see a full account of it in "Church Life."

NORMAL OR TEACHER TRAINING CLASS.

Early in the year this class was organized with Miss Van Fleet as teacher, and was a success from the start. Last fall she felt it her duty to again take charge of the Guild class, and Mrs. A. O. Ware took the Teacher's Training class. All who know Mrs. Ware and her ability along these lines cannot question the result of the undertaking.

The importance of a class of this kind cannot be over-estimated, and it will prove a tower of strength later on, when it can be drawn on for teachers, and the school derive

the benefits resulting from having such teachers, which no school can afford to be without, if the best results are expected.

SUMMER MONTHS.

One of the most trying things in connection with the work has been the lack of teachers, during the summer vacation, and much thought has been given to the solving of the problem.

This year the lesson was taught from the platform, in the Primary Department, during the months of July and August, and it proved a success—not that it increased the attendance to any extent, but that was not the object; it held the scholars, interested them, and maintained order in the absence of the teachers. We are greatly indebted to Brother Kennan and Mrs. Lumley, who made this result possible. It was voted to continue this plan of having a short talk on the lesson from the platform every Sunday until January 1.

The teachers in the Intermediate Department voted to retain their classes; this proved as wise for this Department as did the other for the Primary, for the reason that the teachers, having so voted, felt under obligation to either be present or furnish a substitute. This they did promptly and cheerfully, and, as a result, we had a better supply of teachers during vacation than we ever have had. This action on the part of the teachers was much appreciated.

HOLDING GRADUATES.

For years it has been almost impossible to hold scholars in the Intermediate, who have graduated from the Primary. We have succeeded in doing this to a great extent the past two years, which is very encouraging, not only to the Intermediate but to the entire school. Let us hope that we will continue to do so.

ORCHESTRA.

An orchestra has been organized by Brother Reibling and is under his direction. He has rendered the school a great service which is deeply appreciated, and we thank him and his assistants very sincerely.

ATTENDANCE BADGES.

The past year we have adopted the badge system for regular attendance in the Intermediate Department, similar to that used for some years in the Primary, and I think it will be productive of good results.

We feel it a duty to give facts and say a few plain words as to the Primary Department.

In my previous annual reports, I have called your attention to the decreasing attendance in this, the most important department in the school, as it, including the Junior Primary, is your source of supply.

Your Superintendent admits that more thought and energy has been given to the Intermediate, not from choice, but at the time it seemed most needed.

The time has now come, however, when every effort must be made to arrest its decline and start it on the up grade, toward its former position in the school. In 1901 the average attendance was 303.1; in 1903, 262; in 1906, 204. When the loss in average attendance is 100 in six years, it is time we stopped to consider the effect of said losses on the future school and church, and endeavor to ascertain the cause of such a change.

You cannot hold your Superintendent, nor assistant in charge responsible. The gathering in of new scholars or reclaiming the lost ones is not a part of their direct duty. They should do and have done, all they could, but their success is, at best, very limited in this direction.

We are well aware of the ever changing conditions in this neighborhood, but do they effect the number of available children between the ages of three and twelve years?

The canvass of the districts in our territory made a year or more ago, and the one made recently, should answer the question and give the necessary information. Has the Sunday school benefitted by said canvass? If not, why not? Are there available children in the neighborhood? If so, why do we not get them? We cannot answer these questions, for we have not seen the result of said canvass, either on paper or practically.

We must admit that the scholars in this department are harder to manage, but it ought not to be as difficult to hold them in the school as it is the older ones.

Your church and Sunday school visitor has done excellent work, and been untiring in her devotion to her duties, and I have often wondered how she had the mental and physical strength to do all that she was called upon to do; but we know it is only by persistent and constant visiting that this department can be replenished. Can we say this has not been done? No, but we can honestly ask, "How could it be done in addition to other duties?"

This church should have a visitor whose entire time can be given to the Sunday school, and very largely to the Primary Department, for the coming two years, and she should be under the direction of the Superintendent. It makes my heart ache to think of losing the children on whom we must rely for the church of the future.

We have graduated from the Junior Primary into the Primary 123, and from the Primary into the Intermediate 162 in the past five years, or an average of over 32 a year. In 1903 we graduated 43. This is as it should be and is what the Primary Department is for. But it is necessary to replenish it from the Cradle Roll and from children in our neighborhood, or your source of supply will soon be exhausted, and then it is only a question of time when your Sunday school will practically be a thing of the past. If the attendance can be brought back to 300 or 275 and maintained, it can furnish 40 or more scholars each and every year to the Intermediate Department, and if they are held there as they have been for the past two years, it will not be long before your school would number one thousand.

We are now forewarned and it should mean forearmed. We beseech you to consider this subject most carefully, and to take immediate steps to avert what may prove a disaster to our school and church.

CRADLE ROLL.

The natural increase to the school comes from this department, and upon the energy and perseverance of its Superintendent depends largely the supply from within our own church.

Miss Mary Green, who has had charge the past year has done most excellent work, and has on the roll the names of 41, as members of the Resident Branch. She conceived the idea of having a non-resident branch and has nine enrolled, making a total of 50 members.

When a child reaches the age of three years it is supposed to enter the Junior Primary and is dropped from the Cradle Roll.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE.

I do not feel that I can, in justice to myself or the scholars, conclude this report, without making a last appeal to the teachers and parents to urge the children to attend church services. In all my reports and "in season and out of season" I have urged this strongly. I do not feel that we have done our whole duty until we succeed in this. It may be said of some, and truly, that they are too young to understand the sermon or be interested. This is no reason why they should not attend, for the primary object is to teach them the habit. This accomplished, it will not be a great while before they will be interested. I regard this as second in importance to teaching a scholar from the Word of God.

GENERAL CONDITION.

It must be obvious to those who have followed this report, that the school is in good condition, with the exception of attendance in the Primary Department. We have a good supply of faithful officers and teachers and a deep personal interest is taken by all.

The Intermediate Department is in excellent shape and on a strong and sound foundation, and with a continuance of the personal interest now manifested we fail to see any reason why it should not continue to progress and increase as it has the past two years, and especially during the year just closed.

The credit for the improvement is not due to any one person or any group of persons, but to each and everyone who has faithfully performed their duty. It is the result of a combined effort and interest on the part of the officers, teachers and scholars.

While we are grateful and thankful for what has been done, there is room for much greater improvement and always will be. As yet we are nowhere near the point from which we can catch even a glimpse of the ideal.

It takes time to construct massive buildings or establish great enterprises, so with a Sunday school. Much thought and time is necessary to mature plans, and months of patient waiting before we realize the results of their practical working.

OUR LOSSES.

We deeply regret the loss of workers; though they may be still in active service for the Master in some other Sunday school—and what is our loss is their gain.

There are other losses we have sustained the past year, which we feel much more keenly; those who have been called from life's activities to the great and unknown beyond, where they have joined the great host, and, as we believe, are still in active service in some capacity for the same Master, but unhampered by the many trials and difficulties with which they contended here.

Deacon R. S. Parker for many years was active in our Sunday School, and up to a short time before his death, was on hand every Sunday morning to greet with a pleasant smile, a kind word and a warm handshake, the officers, teachers and scholars, from which came an inspiration, enabling them to perform their duties more cheerfully and effectively. The past and present members of the school need nothing to keep fresh in memory, the beautiful character and sweet friendship of Deacon Parker; and those who come after us will be reminded once a year of his love for the school, when a Sunday each year in the spring, they receive flower seeds to perpetuate the custom he established and in which he so much delighted.

Brother H. F. Googins, though not actively identified with the Sunday School at the time of his death, was at one time its faithful and energetic Assistant Superintendent and the year before his death was Superintendent of the Home Department.

His duties to the Master called him along other lines of work in the church, but none the less important or less acceptable service. I think he loved this church as perhaps no other man did, and was deeply interested in all its activities and the results obtained.

He was a man of rare qualities and the world would be better if we had more such men. He was a man of strong convictions and had the courage of them; you always knew where he stood; he was not swayed by every wind that blew, and did not allow any desire for popularity to swerve him in what he thought his duty. The church and the world can ill afford to lose such men, for they are few and far between, and are an honor and example to their time and generation. Very few such true friends as he was, and to many of us his loss was truly a personal one.

Brother George Pope, though never active in the Sunday School, was always much interested in it, and contributed liberally to its support, and for years was represented in the work by one of the most beautiful Christian characters and earnest workers it has been my good fortune to know. The Sunday School can never forget Mrs. Pope, for so long as it exists, there will be some either to recall or tell of her great and successful work among the little ones, whom she so dearly loved, which will ever live in memory as a sweet memorial to her.

Miss Isabel Harvey was probably not widely known in the school, though she was deeply interested and frequently visited the Primary Department. She was a warm friend of the school and also of the writer, and never refused an appeal for financial assistance and often volunteered it.

IN CONCLUSION.

I thank Brother Piercy for his valuable assistance the past two months, and the officers, teachers and scholars for their kindness, co-operation and loyalty during the ten years I have been active in Sunday School work, as teacher, Assistant Superintendant, and Superintendent. I regard it as the most important of any work in the Master's service, and deeply regret a much needed rest compels me to give it up.

I can assure you that I am laying down a labor of love; for to me the work is most congenial and the boys and girls very dear. I also take this opportunity to thank you all for your loving sympathy and kindness, during the trying year just closed.

To my successor I urge you to give the best you have in every way, and wish him unbounded success.

May the Lord richly bless and prosper our school, and may many a soul be won for the Master through your efforts as His servants and in His name.

Respectfully submitted,

C. E. WHITMORE,
Superintendent.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1906.

Enrollment.	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901
Prim Dept. (Incl. Junior)	310	323	319	375	369	375
Int. Dept. (Incl. Bible Classes)	330	314	263	363	282	593
Total	640	637	582	738	651	968
Home Department	132	125	208	276	....	....
Average Attendance.						
Primary Dept.	204.1	217.2	223.3	262	279.15	303.1
Intermediate Dept.	203.65	190.5	167.3	189.5	195.85	237.9
	407.7	407.7	390.6	451.5	475	541
Percentage of enrollment in average attendance	63.7	64	67.1	61.17	72.96	56
Graduated.						
From Inf. Class to Primary	15	15	25	43	25	....
From Primary to Intermed.	26	27	36	28	45	....
Scholars received in church membership	9	9	23	17	13	....

The enrollment of the school at the close of the year 1906, is made up as follows:

	1905		1906	
Primary Dept., Officers	13		13	
Junior Primary (Infant Cl.)	95		75	
Primary Dept., Teachers and Scholars	215	323	222	310
Intermediate Dept., Officers	10		10	
" Teachers	21		22	
" Scholars	140		174	
Bible Class, Teachers	5		5	
" " Scholars	138	314	119	330
				640
Total		637		132
Home Department		125		
		762		772

In comparing the average attendance with the enrollment we find in the Primary Dept. the percentage is 65.8, a slight decrease from last year, and in the Intermediate Dept. (including Bible Classes) it is 61.7 per cent, a slight increase over last year.

The above report includes the Men's League class (with an enrollment of 149—the largest class in the school), led by our Pastor, Dr. de Blois. The largest attendance has been 45, smallest 22, average 33—no meetings being held from May 28 to September 23, 1906, and no meetings on first Sunday of each month—the average of 33 is that for the Sundays they met and not for each Sunday in the year, which would be an average of 17 is figured in above statistics.

To sum up the year's statistics they show an increase of 3 in the total enrollment, with practically the same average attendance and percentage (namely, about 64 per cent) of attendants to enrollment. Had there not occurred several *very* stormy Sundays during the year there is no doubt the records would show an increase in attendance over last year. As it is the year 1906, shows not only the smallest attendance (122) for 11 years but also the largest (667) for seven years. Perhaps also "General Prosperity" had something to do with the fact that so many of our members were away during the Summer when our school was unusually small. Last year the suggestion was made by the Secretary that during the Summer months the entire school meet together as *one* school. The experience of last Summer would suggest the advisability of considering this question more fully. The Secretary would also repeat the suggestions made in

last year's report, namely that more use be made of the Library (where Mr. Clarke has been doing some good work and getting in new books)—that the S. S. Orchestra be made more of a feature. There are also several other lines of aggressive work that could be taken up with profit to the school if we could only get *interested workers* to follow them up. The especial suggestions for the coming year of a definite nature is this—that a Sunday and also a Wednesday evening prayer meeting be set aside and devoted exclusively to the *work* of the S. S.—to making our church members better acquainted with the work and the needs of the S. S. I have no doubt there are many willing workers in our church who would help in the S. S. if they could be given something definite to do, but these empty offices go from week to week—the work often being neglected because the officers cannot dot it all. We need more workers. Will you not volunteer?

The figures also show a loss of 13.1 in average attendance in the Primary department (that means a total of 676 less attendants during the year.) While the Intermediate Dept. has gained exactly the same number, viz. 13.1 and a very decided interest seems to have been awakened in the latter department by the adoption of the badge system—for which a smaller and neater badge has been designed. In commenting on the results of this system it is significant to note that those scholars—(and there are quite a number of them) who have the best records for several years consecutive attendance, formed this habit of regularity in the Primary Department under the stimulus of the badge system in use there. After careful observation no bad effects have been noted from its use. Several other schools in different parts of the country have adopted it.

During the last few weeks Dr. de Blois has addressed the school at the close of the session directing the scholars' thoughts towards the serious consideration of their own responsibility and salvation. This is indeed good—we need *more* of this kind of serious labor for and with the scholars so that at the close of another year the report will show more added to the church membership from the Sunday School. This year there were 9—the same as in 1905.

The Secretary wishes to gratefully acknowledge the faithful services rendered by the Department Secretaries, Mr. Bently Pitts and Dr. Frank W. Gale and their assistants.

Respectfully submitted,

H. H. SOLT, Secy.

Chicago, December 31, 1906.

REPORT OF TREASURER OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR 1906.

Receipts.	
Cash on hand, Gen'l Fund Jan. 1	$165.90
Cash on hand, Birthday Fund Jan. 1	60.32
Interest on Birthday Fund	1.48
Received from Church	434.94
" " Home Dep't	65.12
" " School Collections	375.02
" " Birthday Offerings	27.54
" " Sale Picnic Tickets	171.80
" " Lecture (net proceeds)	61.00
Received from Easter Offering	$20.34
" " Christmas Offering	54.35
" " San Francisco Offering	10.48
" " Children's Day Offering	2.80
" " Thanksgiving Offering	39.45
	$1490.63
Disbursements.	
Sundry Expense	$299.74
Easter Expense	46.25
Children's Day Expense	24.30
Rally Day Expense	5.00
Christmas Expense	75.00
Picnic Expense	275.00
Quarterlies, etc	109.88
Miss Van Fleet	30.00
Raymond Mission	61.01
Baptist Orphanage	74.69
Home Dep't Expense	43.42
San Francisco Relief	10.48
Chinese Mission	2.89
Thanksgiving Offering, Miss Van Fleet	39.45
Cash Birthday Fund December 31	28.33
Cash General Fund December 31	364.99
	$1490.63

December 31, 1906.

REPORT OF "SPECIAL" FUND OF PRIMARY DEPARTMENT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL

	Dec. 31, 1906
Bal. on deposit Dec. 31, 1905	$8.30
Int.	.25
Bal. on hand Dec. 31, 1906	$8.55

Note: Mr. Webster Tomlinson is treasurer of above fund.

FISHER MISSION FUND REPORT FOR 1906.

Jan. 1, Bal. on hand	$48.06
Received from Mr. Atwell	67.49
Quarter ending April 1	13.04
" " June 24	13.37
" " September 29	7.02
" " December 30	14.72
Total	$163.70
Disbursements.	
Mrs. Googins	$40.00
Miss Pickets	25.00
Mr. Pease	25.00
Rev. R. R. Kennan	10.00
C. K. to Mr. Whitmore	10.00
Repairs on banks	4.85
Total	$114.85
Balance on hand	48.85
Cash received	$163.70
Disbursements	114.85
Jan. 1, 1907, Balance	$48.85

IRA C. HUMPHREY,
Treasurer of Fund.

SACRIFICE FUND.
1906.

Balance on hand January 1, 1906 ..... $29.91

No collections or disbursements during year leaves balance January 1, 1907, $29.91.

IRA C. HUMPHREY.

REPORT OF CRADLE ROLL DEPARTMENT FROM MAY 6, 1906, TO JAN. 1, 1907.

Additions to resident department	41
*Discontinuances	5
	36
Retained to datet	9
Additions to non-resident branch	0
Discontinuances	—
	9

RETAINED TO DATE.

Total number names on Cradle Roll.....45

MARY A. GREEN,
Supt. Cradle Roll.

*"Discontinuances."—When a child reaches the age of three years, its name is dropped from our record because with that age Cradle Roll privileges cease.

MEN'S LEAGUE, ANNUAL REPORT.

Rev. Austen K. de Blois,

Dear Pastor:—In giving the report for the League for the year just finished, it is most gratifying to note that success has attended our efforts and that the future is roseate with promise of success.

It is my aim to present in as few words as possible in view of the wide scope of the work of the league, the efforts and progress of the League during the past year.

Before doing this it will be well to note the purpose of the League. This is to promote religious instruction and to improve the physical, mental, social and spiritual condition of men.

In all of these, save possibly the physical, the League may truthfully be said to have made very good progress. Nothing has been done in a physical line of work except to investigate Bible Class athletics, but the future may see a development along this line.

The spiritual side of League work has been very successfully carried on. To this end the Bible Class has been a most efficient aid under the most able leadership of our Pastor, Dr. de Blois, to whom, for the success of which, too much praise cannot be given. From a small attendance it has steadily increased to 46.

The social side of League work has also been a gratifying success, and great interest has been shown. The monthly social and entertainment evenings have been well attended and great interest shown. The programs have been of unusual excellence and interest.

Many able and noted men, whose interest in the great problems of the day bring them constantly before us, have spoken to us upon vitally interesting topics, and some very successful entertainments have been held.

In practical work the League has benefited many of our men and the Fellowship Committee is especially to be commended for this work. They have gotten positions for men in need of employment, procured board and room under good influences for a goodly number of men who applied.

On May 28. the League gave an entertainment and on November 13 a Banquet, both of which were a fine success and netted a fair amount for the treasury. From this Banquet, after deducting expenses and (for Ladies' Benevolent Society) half of net receipts, the balance $32.01 has been turned over by the League treasurer to the Church treasurer to apply on removal of debt on lot to South of church.

Directing all these energies has been a most efficient corps of men under the able direction of Mr. S. H. Trude, our president, who is certainly the right man in the right place, as he is proving over and over again.

A new branch of work has been taken up with a view of keeping up the interest in the Bible class and to be used in church work. This is the League Octette organized by the League. It is proving a great success and is composed of the following: Dr. W. H. Gale, president; W. H. Vallette, Fred S. Allen, Dr. C. M. Baldwin, C. M. Clark, J. G. Marsh, I. S. Dillingham, and Rev. R. R. Kennan. They are doing a noble work.

Now we come to a matter of particular interest to all of us. This is a matter which has been the object of much work and consideration in the League. We have, as you all know, a lot to the South of the Church upon which there is a debt.

A Committee with Mr. W. E. Smith as chairman, was appointetd to formulate and set in motion plans to remove this debt, that later the lot may be used for what purpose will be deemed wise.

This is the only remaining church debt. At the beginning of 1906 this debt amounted to $5,750, secured by mortgages. An effort was made by the League to raise such a fund if possible for this cause and through the efforts of the committee the debt was reduced to $5,450.

There is a cash fund now in hand largely raised by the co-operation of the ladies of the church Benevolent Society, amounting to $650, so that this debt is reduced to $4800 as a result of the work of 1906.

The Committee is thoroughly organized—active work is now going on that bids fair to extinguish the last shadow resting upon the church property within a few months.

The work is going along in fine shape in all departments and the future is bright with success ahead. 1907 ought to be the best year in our history.

The Men's League is very much alive, has live men in it, and we aim to accomplish much.

Respectfully submitted,
FRANK WILLIS GALE,
Secretary.

January 1, 1907.

ANNUAL REPORT OF LADIES' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Rev. Austen K. de Blois, Ph. D.,

Dear Pastor:—In looking over the record of things accomplished by the Ladies' Benevolent Society in the last twelve months, a glance shows that it needs neither exaggeration of fact, nor clever use of words to make the report one of which we may be justly proud.

The beginning of the year found us with $146.99 in our treasury, and to that sum we have added $668.46 from various sources—afternoon teas—a novelty sale—filling

for rugs, comforts and aprons, the establishment of a delicatessen department and by the filling of dime albums, which were donated by one of our members, making a total of $815.45. The disbursements for the year have amounted to $788.92. This included the $500.00 which was necessary to complete our original pledge of $750.00 to the Raymond Chapel fund.

The addition to the work which has been done with a view to replenishing our treasury, we have sewed for our own poor, for the School-children's Aid Society, the Industrial School at Evanston, the Woman's Baptist Foreign Missionary Society, and the Home for Missionaries' Children, supplying, also, linens and a rug for our room there.

There have been 307 garments, 17 comforts and 4 quilts completed during the year, and 451 old garments have also passed through the hands of the Distributing Committee.

We have contributed to the Baptist Orphanage, and to its bazaar, and have also made donations of household supplies to the Baptist Hospital.

Raymond Chapel is richer by a carpet, given by one of our members in the name of the Society, and by contributions to its Rummage Sale. The Industrial School there, is also our charge.

The Lookout Committee have given a word of greeting to 204 strangers—who can tell how far-reaching some of these words may have been? The Missionary Barrels have been filled and sent out by us, as usual, and the Men's League Dinner was served by a committee from this Society. These things have been accomplished by a company of loyal women, averaging 74 in number, who meet together on the first and third Fridays of the month, but a smaller band, the Cutting Committee, devote two extra days to the planning and preparation of the sewing, and make possible the large results in this line

The Table Committee also deserve much credit for the well-served lunches which are a delightful feature of our meetings.

Inroads have been made upon our number by death, and by the shifting tide of population. Several of the best-loved and most faithful workers have gone from us, but new members are constantly coming to grow into the vacant places, and we pray that God will always keep our hearts warm to carry on His work.

MRS. E. L. ROY,
Secretary.

REPORT OF YOUNG LADIES' MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

Rev. Austen K. de Blois, Ph. D.,

Dear Pastor:—During the year there have been thirteen regular meetings of the Society at the homes of its members.

Until the end of March the girls planned and sewed at the meetings for the sale which took place March 28, at the home of Mrs. Googins. Between forty-nine and fifty dollars were made at this sale of fancy articles, home-made candy and refreshments.

A study class has been organized as a part of the Missionary meetings, and it is in charge of Miss Florence Huskey. The text-book is Bishop Hoburn's "Christian Conquest of India."

During 1906, $35.70 has been given to Home Missions and the same amount to Foreign Missions.

Submitted by,
LEILA M. AHRENS, Sec.

REPORT OF WOMEN'S MISSION CIRCLE.

Dr. de Blois,

Dear Pastor:—The Woman's Mission Circle has deeply felt the loss caused by the death of several of our oldest and most loyal members during the year that is now closed. We desire to be true to the example left us by these who have finished their labors.

The Circle has held nine meetings with an average attendance of sixty-three. Our studies have been upon the mission fields of Japan and Africa, and in our own country upon the colored race, the Indians, and the people of Israel.

At two meetings a class of students from the Training School were present, and we enjoyed having Miss McLean and two Hopi companions speak to us. The study of God's providence in these many fields has been blessed to us, and the fellowship afforded by our Social Committee at the quarterly meetings has been enjoyed. $383.14 have been contributed to Home, $371.61 to Foreign Missions through the Circle.

Very sincerely,
JENNIE M. C. LINGLE.

January 5.

REPORT OF THE AMORET HENSON GUILD, 1906.

Rev. Austen K. de Blois,— Dear Pastor:—

The first important event of the year was the entertainment given by the Guild February 28, from which we netted $57.50; we were thus enabled to clear the indebtedness with which we started the year.

During the year a number of our friends who have travelled extensively favored us with interesting accounts of their trips. Miss Elizabeth Lingle spoke of her trip to Cairo and Miss Gertrude Patrick told of her experiences in Berlin.

In October the Guild had a very good attendance and an exceedingly attractive meeting the evening of the fall rally.

Dr. and Mrs. de Blois were among our guests. Dr. de Blois spoke to us during the evening, giving us much encouragement and many helpful suggestions for the year's work.

The quartette from the Training School were also among our guests, and very kindly favored us with several vocal selections.

Miss Van Fleet suggested a plan by which we could help to decorate the interior of Raymond Chapel, the girls took a great deal of interest in this work and have nearly completed their pledge.

At the annual business meeting in October the following officers were elected for the year 1907: President, Miss Blanche Harvey; Vice-President, Miss Florence Huskey; Treasurer, Miss Christine MacFadden; Secretary, Miss Florence Kellow; Program Committee, Miss Lelia Ahrens; Supper Committee, Miss Edith

Gale; Bible Class Committee, Miss Blanche Harvey; Visiting Committee, Miss Helen Todd; Membership Committee, Miss Blanche Pickett.

A number of new members have been added to the roll and the Visiting Committee have been steadily at work calling on the young ladies of the Guild and congregation.

We are glad to report that the Bible class has received its usual support during the year.

We feel very much encouraged by the good attendance and the increased interest the girls are taking in the work this year.

Respectfully submitted,
BETHIA FLORENCE KELLOW,
Secretary.

REPORT OF THE GIRLS' FIDELITY.

Rev. Austen K. de Blois, Ph. D.

Dear Pastor:—Practically all the work of the Girls' Fidelity has been accomplished since the last report

This Society has held seventeen regular meetings during the year, and one rally held October, the eleventh. At eight of the meetings the monthly supper was served.

With an average membership and attendance of fifteen, the girls have accomplished a great deal. At the meetings the programme and reception committees have attempted to produce a friendship among the girls present, and they certainly have succeeded.

The usual program is made up of games, but once we had the pleasure of hearing a lecture on Queen Elizabeth, given by our Pastor.

So with the new members and the enthusiasm of the old ones, we hope for a great success in the present year.

HATTIE LOIS TODD,
Secretary.

C. E. REPORT.

Rev. Austen K. de Blois,—Dear Pastor:—

The best work of the Christian Endeavor Society is done quietly and is not noted in the minutes of the secretary, but is written on the hearts of the C. E. members, and those associated with us. So the real success or failure of the society cannot be chronicled here, and we trust that our loving Father will be merciful to us, forgiving the many failures, and bringing to Himself praise for all that has been successfully accomplished.

The blessing of God has been with us, though the year has not been marked with unusual events. During the year there have been many changes in the membership. Faithful members have moved to a distance, and we have missed their helpful presence.

One of our members was privileged to attend the Student Missionary Volunteer Convention at Nashville last Spring, bringing fresh inspiration back with her to the society.

The Open Air services that have been held for several years by the society were carried on again this year. Let me express our hearty thanks to all who assisted in these services, especially to Mr. Kennan for his loyal support. Many souls were influenced to higher life and all who were privileged to attend those Monday evening services gained much in enthusiasm for God's work. Several conversions were reported, and of these two are actively engaged in the work of our Church and society.

The Missionary meetings have been constantly growing in interest, due to the efforts of the chairman of that committee. The thing we are now looking forward to with great interest is the formation of a Mission Study Class, which will meet every Monday evening to study the Christian Conquest of India by Bishop Thoburn. A cordial invitation is extended to every one to attend and study with us.

In the early part of the year it was determined that the Duffield Memorial Fund, which represents the foreign mission contributions of the society, should be designated to Dr. Walter Rittenhouse. Our gifts to Missions this year have not been as large as usual, but it ns now the aim and effort of the executive committtee to increase this amount.

The Rally meeting in October was well attended and greatly enjoyed. Mr. S. B. Pinney, who addressed us at that time, gave us some short talks on spiritual subjects during the Friday evenings in November. I trust their influence will be lasting.

The social life of the society has been confined almost entirely to the Friday evening meetings, owing to the increasing activity of our members in other directions and the multiplicity of meetiings in the Church rooms.

More than a year ago an Intermediate Society of Christian Endeavor was organized. They had excellent meetings, which were held on Sunday evenings. They have continued to grow and in November they became a senior society of Christian Endeavor, so that we now have in our church two C. E. Societies, of which we are justly proud.

Respectfully submitted,
ELIZABETH M. PICKETT,
President.

BOYS' CLUB REPORT.

Chicago, Ill., Jan. 5, 1907.

Rev. Austen K. de Blois,

Dear Pastor:—As the one to whom was given the charge of the revivication of the Boys' Club, I suppose it falls to me to report on the same at this time. At the time the Club was reorganized in October last, I secured the cooperation of Mr. Messner, who has had considerable experience in handling boys, and also that of Roy Todd, the former President of the club. These two aided in securing the attendance and interest of others. Mr. Messner took charge of the games and tried to make them as attractive and helpful as possible. The attendance was fair for a time, but soon became small and the general complaint was that they could not play the more boisterous and athletic games in the church rooms and that those supplied were too tame. Of the smaller boys who continued to come, most of them had good homess and therefore had the less need of the Club. Mr. Messner, moving farther away, found it difficult and discouraging to come to the meetings of the Club. Under the circumstances it seemed to the writer best not to keep the church open and go to the expense of heating for so little result, and after consultation with others, the meetings of the Club have been

discontinued for the present. The whole history of the Boy's Club in our church, as in others, reveals the need of special rooms fitted up on purpose for boys, where they can indulge boys' spirits and vigor in exercises and athletics hardly permissible in church rooms. Here is another argument for that parish house so much needed in this community.

Respectfully submitted,

R. R. KENNAN.

JUNIOR CONGREGATION REPORT.

Chicago, Ill., Jan. 5, 1907.

Rev. Austen K. de Blois,

Dear Pastor:—The Junior Congregation, the youngest addition to your church family, desires to report its birth and growth as follows:

The name of this new organization is "The Junior Congregation of the First Baptist Church of Chicago." The purpose of its existence is—"to promote a better understanding of the Gospel of Christ and a truer spirit of worship among the boys and girls of this community." Its active members are boys and girls over ten years of age who publicly confess their faith in Christ and express their determination, with God's help, to do what Jesus would have them do.

The regular devotional meetings of the Congregation are held each Sunday at 3 p. m. and are in charge of myself or Miss Van Fleet, in conjunction with the Devotional Committee of the Juniors.

The aim has been to have a service modelled after the church service and to accustom the boys and girls to a proper spirit and behavior, such as is becoming to a religious service.

The organization was started October 26, and temporary officers were elected, who hold office till the annual meeting, which occurs this week. The officers as elected were as follows: President, Willard Groom; Vice-President, Elsie Boetter; Secretary, Sidney Hurlbut; Treasurer, Florence Dicks. There are thirty names on the list of Active members. The complete organization, however, awaits the annual meeting, January 11.

The meetings have been well attended and interesting, not without evidences of marked spiritual helpfulness to the boys and girls. We believe that this new child of the church will be loyal to its interests and helpful to its life and hopes.

Respectfully submitted,

R. R. KENNAN,

Junior Pastor

THE CHURCH AT WORK.

MEN'S LEAGUE.

FRANK W. GALE, DEPARTMENT EDITOR.

We rather expect the month of December and consequent Christmas holidays and the busy times which go with them, that though of course work is done in all departments not so much will be done as in the other months. However, this may be the Men's League accomplished a great deal and its activity seemed lessened very little. A step toward an object and its accomplishment was taken. The step referred to was taken in a rousing and enthusiastic business meeting called by President Trude with the purpose of setting energetically in motion and giving a fresh impetus as it were to this movement.

The object above spoken of is this: As is well known to the south of our church lies a lot owned by the church and upon which there is a debt secured by mortgages. The Men's League in this meeting passed resolutions which have for their object the extinguishing of this debt.

The debt at the beginning of 1906 amounted to $5750.

An effort was made by the League to raise a fund to remove this debt and through the efforts of the Finance Committee, of which Mr. Wm. E. Smith is chairman, the debt was reduced to $5,450.

There is a cash fund now in hand, largely raised by the co-operation of the ladies of the church Benevolent Society, amounting to $650.00, so that this debt is reduced to $4,800 as the result of 1906. Your committee is thoroughly organized—active work is now going on that bids fair to extinguish the last shadow resting upon the church property in the near future.

The Fellowship Committee has made substantial progress in its effort to develope a spirit of mutual helpfulness among our members. Several positions have been secured for men by the committee and a number have been located in pleasant homes through their influence.

The committee is enthusiastic over the possibilities of their line of work and receive many words of approval from our people.

The best positions in the world are open to good, clean, honest men, the kind of men who should be the natural product of the inspiring influences of our League and other branches of our church life.

Let us work to the motto: "The best place for every man he is competent to fill," as a modern version of the Master's command: "Love one another and bear ye one another's burdens.

The Membership Committee reports a very satisfactory attendance. Beginning with an attendance of twenty-six on September 23, there has been a steady progression until the last Sunday of November saw the high water mark reached with forty-six men present.

The month of December, as is to be expected in the holiday season, has seen a slight decrease. There is every reason to expect a still further increase in the months which are before us. Let each man try and bring in some other man, whether friend or he who sat beside or near you in church service Sunday, a stranger "within our gates."

The Rooms Committee have done yeoman service and much good by introducing strangers to our members and thus paving the way to keep these strangers who come to class with us and thus making members and friends with us. They have also seen that bibles and hymn books were ready and the room pleasant and inviting, and the thanks of all is surely given them unstintingly.

The Social Committee has won the hearty commendation of us all by the excellence of its program and other arrangements of its social evenings and more especially for the successful entertainment of May 28 and Annual Banquet of November 13.

The Octette organized in the fall by Dr. W. H. Gale is proving its valuableness more and more and is fast proving a most inspiring and indispensable feature of the Men's League. It is now planned to use the Octette in the Sunday evening church services. Their singing is much appreciated and of excellent quality.

The League is continually grateful to Dr. de Blois, our pastor, for the fine and efficient way in which he has conducted and taught the Bible class and for aiding us by his sage advice in League work.

The League is fortunate in having a large number of good and energetic men upon whom it may call to do this or that which may come up, thus seldom lacking the right man in the right place.

Recently a meeting was held and a committee appointed to welcome strangers at our church services on Sunday and more especially on Sunday evening, when we have so many at our service. It is our earnest desire that no strangers leave our church services without a warm handclasp and welcome.

We are branching out in our work and taking in many activities heretofore not touched and with the future comes the branching out still further.

The Men's League Bible class meets every Sunday morning directly after church service at 12:15 o'clock. Dr. de Blois, our pastor, teaches the class. We have the teaching of International Sunday School Lessons and open and free discussions on same. These are inspiring lessons and great interest is taken by all. Fine attendance.

Strangers welcome. Come and see for yourself.

FRANK W. GALE,
Department Editor, Men's League.

January 9, 1907.

THE WOMAN'S MISSION CIRCLE.

MRS. S. B. LINGLE.

The January meeting of the Woman's Mission Circle had an attendance of forty-two.

The conditions on the Congo formed the foreign mission program, and was given in a paper, written by Mrs. MacLeish, of Glencoe. Her illnesss prevented her presence and Mrs. Atwell kindly presented the paper.

Mrs. MacFadden took the Home Mission program and gave us a suggestive talk on the incoming millions from the old world, who are sure to be a menace to our institutions unless we accept the responsibility and do our part toward bringing the gospel to these foreigners in our midst. As Chicago has the largest proportion of foreign population of any American city, this comes close home to us.

Beautiful and appropriate music added greatly to the program.

On the second Friday in February the annual meeting of the Circle will be held, and officers and committees chosen, after which tea will be served.

LADIES' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

MRS. L. H. SMITH, DEPT. EDITOR.

The annual meeting of the Ladies' Benevolent Society was held December 7. After the report of the different committees, which were very satisfactory, the annual election of the officers occurred, with no changes from the former year, with the exception of a new Secretary, Mrs. E. L. Roy, who has already shown her ability to succeed our former efficient and faithful Mrs. Frances Morava.

The Secretary's report for the past year was full of interest, and she calls it "the golden year of the society."

Large contributions have been made to Raymond Chapel, as well as assuming the responsibility of the Industrial School, now in charge of Miss Jessie Chandler. Contributions have been made to the Baptist Orphanage and Baptist Hospital. Sewing for the School Children's Aid Society, for the Industrial School at Evanston, and for the children in the Home for Missionaries' Children at Morgan Park, together with many other worthy objects, has engaged the time and attention of the society; 307 new garments completed during the year, 451 old and 155 new garments given out. The substantial work of individual members, with that of the committees, has made the last year one of progress and helpfulness to many.

The Holiday Market or Bazaar on the 12th and 13th of December proved a perfect success. Very great credit is due the decorating committee in the good taste displayed in transforming the Sunday school room into a bower of beauty for the display of the many beautiful fancy and useful articles on sale. The doll and candy booths were quite conspicuous for their artistic beauty, as well as the Japanese tea room, where refreshments and rest were very inviting. The Indian Wigwam elicited much attention, as well as "Uncle Sam." The ladies and their assistants in all the booths vied with each other to add to the grand total receipts of seven hundred dollars for the treasury. Great credit is due all the ladies whose untiring efforts were crowned with so much success.

THE YOUNG WOMEN'S MISSION UNION.

On Tuesday evening, January 15, the Young Ladies' Missionary Society and the Ladies' Mission Circle entertained the meeting of the Chicago Young Women's Mission Union of the Chicago Association. Supper was served in our parlors to a large number of representative missionary young people from the churches of Chicago and suburbs. An enthusiastic audience filled the Intermediate Sunday school room after supper and listened to short addresses and good

music. Mrs. Grow, of the Foreign Mission Board, spoke on our missions in Japan, which she has recently visited. Miss Nelle Read told of her work among the miners' families of West Virginia, and Miss Moore, the veteran missionary among the colored people, was introduced and made a few remarks. A group of our own young women followed Miss Moore and sang an African jubilee song. All success to this new organization of missionary young people, which will meet four times a year in some Chicago church for the inspiration and education of the young people along missionary lines.

PERSONALS.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Atwell have been quite seriously ill, but are much better.

Mrs. A O. Ware was quite ill during the holiday time, but has now recovered her usual strength and good health.

Charles Prior, a member of our Sunday school, has been quite ill.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Clarke, January 13, a son.

Most of the subscriptions to CHURCH LIFE for 1907 are now due and many for 1905 and 1906.

We need several copies of the May number of CHURCH LIFE for 1906. If anyone can spare a copy, please hand it to Mr. Embree.

Mrs. J. S. McCullough and her aunt, Mrs. B. F Jacobs, are spending a few weeks at Augusta, Ga.

THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR.

Our society enters upon the work of the new year with a good, strong executive committee. On the evening of December 14 the following were elected for the ensuing six months:

OFFICERS.

President—Miss Florence Huskey.
Vice-President—Robert C. Leland.
Treasurer—Mr. Ernest Hartung.
Recording Secretary—Miss Clara Stowell.
Corresponding Secretary—Miss Mary Marx.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN.

Lookout—Miss Elizabeth Pickett.
Prayer Meeting—Mr. S. T. Foster.
Missionary—Robert C. Leland.
Social—Miss Blanche Pickett.
Yokefellows—Mr. Fred Wolters.
Good Literature—Miss Clara Stowell.
Music—Mr. R. R. Kennan.
Sunday School and Visiting—Miss Daisy Marx.
Finance—Miss Christine McFadden.

The Lookout Committee reports two new members this month.

On December 31 the old year was watched out by a good gathering of about two hundred. During the intermission, refreshments were served by the society.

The mid-winter rally of the Chicago Union was held this year Tuesday evening, January 8, at the Second Presbyterian church. Chicago Endeavorers had the rare privilege of listening to an address by Dr. Francis E. Clark, President of the united society.

The Treasurer requests that all who have back dues or pledges unpaid please see him. Let us start the new year right.

MISSIONARY.

Monday evening, January 7, the Mission Study class met for the first time. Miss McCalla, from Moody Bible Institute, is a very able leader. We are studying India, using as text book "The Christian Conquest of India," by Bishop Thoburn, sixty years a missionary there. All interested are cordially invited to attend the weekly sessions Monday evenings at the church.

A letter, recently received from Dr. Walter Rittenhouse, missionary at Namkham, Burma, and read at the meeting December 28, in a very interesting manner described the "bazaar," a typical and important feature of all oriental life. Dr. Rittenhouse promised to let us hear from him again.

A WEDDING.

On the evening of January 10 about fifty guests witnessed the marriage of two of the most popular young people of our church. Miss Helen Pickett, the bride, has grown up among us and is universally known and loved. The groom, Dr. Walter Tucker, has come to us more recently, but has won many warm friends during the years which he has spent in securing his medical education in this city. We regret that these young people will leave us in a short time to make their home in London, which is the former home of Dr. Tucker, but wherever they go our best wishes follow them.

JOURNAL OF THE CHURCH.

BY R. R. KENNAN.

December 2, Sunday—Sermons by the pastor. Topics, "A Little Bit of Paradise" and "Every Day Religion."

December 5, Wednesday—The mid-week prayer meeting. Topic, "The Better Things of the Gospel."

December 7, Friday—Ladies' Benevolent Society meeting. Christian Endeavor meeting. Topic, "Courage or Cowardice." Leader, Arthur Rhenisch.

December 9, Sunday—Sermons by the pastor. Topics, "The Control of Life" and "A Sure Foundation."

December 11, Tuesday—Ladies' Benevolent Society held its Holiday Market all day and evening.

December 12, Wednesday—Continuation of the Holiday Market. Prayer meeting. Topic, "The Power of the Cross." John 19.

December 14, Friday—Monthly meeting of the Woman's Mission Circle. The Junior class of the Training School were guests. Christian Endeavor meeting. Topic, "Lessons from the Seven Words from the Cross." Leader, Rev. Kennan.

December 16, Sunday—Sermons by the pas-

tor. Topics, "The Birth of a Revival" and "Fame or Failure." The latter was introductory to a series on "Paradoxes of Character."

December 19, Wednesday—Church prayer meeting. Topic, "Things that Hinder a Revival."

December 20, Thursday—Monthly business meeting of the Men's League.

December 21, Friday—Regular meeting of the Ladies' Benevolent Society. Christian Endeavor meeting.

December 23, Sunday—Sermons by the pastor. Topics, "The Christmas Joy" and "From Patriarch to Reprobate," the first of the series on "Paradoxes of Character." Christmas exercises were held in both departments of the Sunday school.

December 26, Wednesday—Prayer meeting. Ordination of Mr. Roy Wilbur Babcock to the gospel ministry.

December 27, Thursday—Christmas entertainment of the Sunday school.

December 28, Friday—Christian Endeavor meeting. Topic, "How Can We Carry the Christmas Spirit Through 1907?" Leader, Rev. de Blois.

December 30, Sunday—Sermons by the pastor . Topics, "A New Religion for the New Year" and "A Gifted Man Whose Ambition was His Ruin," second in the series on "Paradoxes of Character."

December 31, Monday—Watch night meeting.

CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP.

By letter—

Miss Sarah M. Bell.
Miss Elizabeth D. Lawson.

By experience—

Roy W. Babcock.

DIMINUTIONS.

Excluded—

Mrs. Lee Wah.

The spirit of criticism should be discouraged and discountenanced as much as it is possible. It is easy enough to detect imperfections in another man, or the work that he is doing, but it is a very shallow mind which seeks to distinguish itself by facility in finding errors. Plutarch gives us a very valuable rule for criticism. He says Apollodorus, the painter, who first invented the mixing of colors and the softening of shadows, was an Athenian. Over his work there was was this inscription:

"It is no hard thing to reprehend me,"
But let the man that blames me mend me."

If all critics would apply this rule, they would admire excellence, and therefore, comprehend rightly, and dwell upon excellence in men rather than upon their defects.—National Baptist Union.

Strong drink is a poison, and only needs to be taken in sufficient quantities to kill as certainly as any other rank poison. Every man who is drunk is a poisoned man and he is poisoned just in proportion to his drunkenness. His brain has felt the deadly influence, his blood has felt it, his nerves and muscles have felt it, and he falls in drunken stupor by the roadside. There he lies, a bulk of inanimate humanity, poisoned in all his faculties. All he needs is a little more of the same kind of poison to kill him.—*United Presbyterian.*

THE VOYAGE.

Whichever way the wind doth blow,
Some heart is glad to have it so;
Then blow it east or blow it west,
The wind that blows, that wind is best.

My little craft sails not alone;
A thousand fleets from every zone
Are out upon a thousand seas;
And what for me were favored breeze
Might dash another with the shock
Of doom, upon some hidden rock.

And so I do not dare to pray
For winds to waft me on my way,
But leave it to a Higher Will
To stay or speed me; trusting still
That all is well and sure that He
Who launched my bark will sail with me.
Through storm and calm, and will not fail,
Whatever breezes may prevail,
To land me, every peril past,
Within His sheltering heaven at last.

Then, whatsoever wind doth blow,
My heart is glad to have it so;
And blow it east or blow it west,
The wind that blows, that wind is best.

—*Selected.*

"I know not where His islands lift
Their fronded palms in air:
I only know I cannot drift
Beyond His love and care."

"I long for household voices gone,
For vanished smiles I long;
But God hath led my dear ones on,
And He can do no wrong.

"I know not what the future hath
Of marvel or surprise,
Assured alone that life or death
His mercy underlies.

And if my heart and strength are weak
To bear an untried pain,
The bruised reed He will not break,
But strengthen and sustain."—*Whittier.*

There is much discontent in our lives of which we should be ashamed, all because we see imperfectly the things that others have. Said the workman as he watched the millionaire pass, "How happy is that man's lot; how I wish I were rich as he." Said the millionaire, with a sigh, as he saw the brawny workman, "How I wish I had the physical strength and health of that man! I have not enjoyed a meal in months as he will his cold lunch while he rests at noon."—*Selected.*

BATTLE SCARRED.

Each of us has our battles to fight;
They must be fought with all our might,
E'er the guerdon we gain.
A cross is the price of a crown's worth,
Though it be won through winter's dearth
Or scorch of sun-stroke pain.
In the depths of night a spark will glow
If on the ash and cinder blow
But one breath again.
So teach us, Lord, to wait Thy years,
To wait the far-off fruitage of tears,
To wait the touch that calms all fears—
Our fevered spirits slain.

J. L. SHIPP.

We one time saw a young man enter a lion's cage. The people held their breath in horror. The same day we saw a young man enter a saloon. The public smiled.—*American Issue.*

Perhaps it might be said of many men that they have no ideal. And this is their condemnation. They have no object in life; they have never reflected why they are alive; their course is determined, not by their own choice, but by the blind forces of appetite within and of conventionality without. Such may truly be said to be dead whilst they live; for surely in such a vast and perilous enterprise as the voyage of life the first duty of every one who claims to be a man is to be aware where he is going.—James Stalker.

Some complain that they were forced to go to church, but you never heard any complaining that they were compelled to go to Heaven. —*Ram's Horn.*

The most fearful effect of strong drink is the weakening of the will. An habitual drunkard finds decision impossible. A man without decision can never belong to himself—he belongs to whatever can seize him.—*Illinois*

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THE DISCIPLES, OF CHICAGO.

REV. CHAS. C. MORRISON.

The interest of the Disciples is growing more widespread and more concentrated upon their centennial celebration of 1909. This date marks the hundredth year from the publication of Thomas Campbell's Declaration and Address, a covenant meant to set forth the motive and program of the first community advocating explicitly the "restoration of primitive Christianity" as a basis of union for Christ's followers. From this original company has grown the modern brotherhood of Disciples of Christ, numbering today a million and a quarter persons. It is fitting that they should celebrate the day of their birth with deeds that are worthy of the great ideal for which they strive.

Pittsburg is the cynosure of their attention, it having been chosen as the convention city for 1909. It was in Western Pennsylvania that the brotherhood took its rise. Into this city a great host of Disciples will undoubtedly pour three years hence. For the Disciples are a great convention people. They gather to the number of five and even ten thousand people at their annual conventions. Here, instead of ecclesiastical discussions, they hear addresses on all sorts of missionary activity and take action to evangelize the world. It may be predicted that in point of numbers and enthusiasm the centennial convention will be one of the most inspiring religious gatherings our country has ever witnessed.

The problem was long discussed as to how the centennial event should be celebrated. Monuments of various sorts were proposed. Specific and more or less spectacular objects were suggested. But the brotherhood finally settled down to this conviction, that the most fitting monument was not some new thing, but more of the same thing the church was in the custom of doing. And that this decision was not a specious evasion of responsibility is shown in the order with which the centennial is approached. The walls of our Zion are hung with an array of centennial mottoes quite confusing to the uninitiated, but every way inspiring to those who follow the banner unfurled a century ago. The Foreign Missionary Society has set as its goal the raising of a special fund of $250,000 for buildings and lands upon foreign fields. It is felt that better homes should be provided for the missionaries. More hospitals and more elaborate equipment are needed. The regular income for foreign missions has reached beyond a quarter million dollars. The Educational Society is pushing its cause with an increased vigor. At first it was suggested that one institution, probably Bethany College, the oldest institution of the brotherhood, of which Alexander Campbell was the founder, be selected and handsomely endowed. A second thought, however, made it seem better to strive to quicken the conscience of the Disciples with respect to their educational problem as a whole. Hence all the colleges are sharing in the movement toward a two and a half million endowment fund.

In the work of church erection, or extension as it is called, a million dollars is called for by 1909. This is a permanent fund which began to be collected in 1891. The Christian Women's Board of Missions has set its goal high and is working through its most admirable organization to attain it.

Every state and district has its own motto. The denominational papers are working with great energy to increase their circulation by thousands of subscribers before the centennial. It is gratifying to observe how generously their space is given in aid of the multifarious interests at which the church works.

Lying deeper than the desire to raise more money is the passion to win more men and women from sin by the centennial year. A great wave of evangelism is spreading over the denomination, a hitherto remarkably evangelistic people. The greatest meetings of its history have been held the past year. Notable among them are the revivals held by Rev. Charles Reign Scoville of Chicago, who rarely closes a revival without adding from five hundred to a thousand persons to the church. Many pastors are leaving the local field for general evangelistic work, and the cry now goes forth that the church is in need of at least a thousand preachers.

We can help make people bright by our keenness . but we can never accomplish anything toward making people good except by our tenderness.—*C. H. Parkhurst, D. D.* 24

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CHARLES E. HAUCK.

We present to our readers this month the face of Charles Edward Hauck, who has held for nearly four years the important position of General Secretary of the Cook County Sunday School Association. Mr. Hauck was born in Newark, New Jersey in 1875. He united with the church at the age of fourteen and began at once to devote himself to religious work so far as his circumstances would permit. He has received a good business education and is a graduate of the full three years' course of the Moody Bible Institute. He was licensed to preach many years ago and has served as assistant pastor of the Fullerton Avenue Presbyterian church. More than four years ago he acted as assistant to Mr. W. C. Pearce, then secretary of the county association and on the resignation of the latter to become international secretary of teacher training, Mr. Hauck was elected acting secretary.

CHARLES E. HAUCK.

In this position he has grown rapidly and has shown courage and fertility of resources in meeting the needs of the work which has grown most encouragingly while he has had charge of it. He has business training and executive ability, is a ready and forceful speaker to a popular audience and an excellent singer and leader of singing. Every Sunday school worker in the county should know him and help him in his work. 26

COOK COUNTY S. S. ASSOCIATION.

The men's fall festival concert was given at Orchestra Hall on the evening of November 22, and was attended by more than 2,000 people. There was a chorus of 248 men from the adult classes of many schools and a profit of $200 was netted for the general uses of the association. The four banners awarded to the four schools selling the largest number of tickets were in order as follows: Eighth Presbyterian, Centennial German M. E. Chicago Lawn M. E., and First Presbyterion, Evanston.

The fall Tour of Conventions was much more successful than last year. Meetings were held within six weeks in forty-two of the forty-four districts of the county and these were largely attended—in one case by more than four hundred people. The effect of the meetings is seen in a quickening of interest and the adoption of new plans especially in supplemental work and adult class work. The general secretary has received many inquiries along the line of these departments and expects to receive more. The tour specialist, Mr. Herbert Moninger proved himself most acceptable.

The teacher training department is rejoicing in growing prosperity. Two hundred have taken examinations on all or a part of the course since the convention last April. This is a larger number than ever before at this time. Arrangements are now being made for such classes in all parts of the city. To them all Sunday School workers are invited. In most of these union classes, which will begin immediately after the week of prayer, the study of methods of teaching will be taken up in a brief and practical course. There is no reason why any teacher who is anxious to improve should not gain the advantage of these classes. Many churches are sustaining classes of their own. Full particulars at the county office, 140 Dearborn St. I. B. BURGESS.

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If you would not have your money dominate your life you must keep on giving it away. The commercialism of this age with all its temptations to avarice and false pride and selfishness is a powerful enemy to love and righteousness. There is no more insidious sin than selfishness. It creeps into the heart and chills and hardens it almost before its presence is known. It is the great enemy of Christian growth. More than probably all other influences is the spirit of commercialism, deadening and killing the spiritual life of Christians. It is not vice so much as the stealthy sin of covetousness that is paralyzing religious power and arresting religious progress. It is the shop or the store or the bank, or the farm, that is hardening and dwarfing men, depleting and enervating churches, killing faith, stilling the voice of prayer, stopping Bible study, desecrating Sabbaths and counteracting all efforts to evangelize the world. *E. W. Stephenson, in Baptist Standard, Texas.*

Intellectual processes are not the determining factors in giving final expression of the truth. To know whether a man has thought accurately and reasoned rightly one must not only know what system he has formulated, but what kind of a man he is and what predilections of mind have characterized his thinking. God is back of all truth as well as in all truth, and back of all life from which thought originates. After men have delivered their own thoughts we have but a human expression of a limited view of the vast field of truth. The revelations of God present more truth to the mind than the most logical deductions of reason can offer to human intellect. We have had much higher philosophy which has attempted to reach truth on the side of reason alone and on that account has been more critical than the simple attempt at truth finding. It has assumed the premise that truth to be reliable must come by way of the reason rather than by way of divine revelation. The proposition that God can make himself known to a human heart by means which reason cannot employ should make make us hold every system of religious belief in abeyance to the authoritative character of revelation. What is needed in every man who speaks in the name of religion or claims to define what the religion of the Bible is, is not an ability to bring truth to the criterion of human reason or judgment, but ability to interpret truth on the side of revelation. In other words, we need today not more of higher philosophy but more of higher interpretation.—*Standard.*

What you get out of the Bible today depends on how much of the Bible you put out into the world yesterday.—*Ram's Ho n.*

The honors you confer on the unworthy only sink them in deeper disgrace.—*Ram's Horn.*

The value of Spectacles depends altogether upon the skill of the one who fits them.

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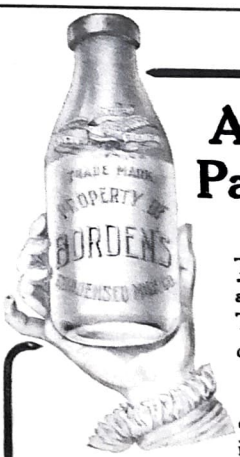

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